

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03454 120202Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 INT-05 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8011

UNCLAS OTTAWA 03454

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, CA, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED REVISION OF EXISTING GEODETIC REFERENCE
SYSTEMS OF CANADA AND THE U.S.

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS NOAA AND COMMERCE/USGS

1. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING NOTE (NO. EBS-
1217) FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DATED 10
JULY 1978:

"THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLI-
MENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE LONG STANDING CO-
OPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA AND THE SURVEYS AND MAPPING BRANCH,
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES OF CANADA.

"THE EXISTING GEODETIC REFERENCE SYSTEMS OF CANADA AND
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ARE BASED ON THE 1927
NORTH AMERICAN DATUM. IT HAS COME TO THIS DEPARTMENT'S
ATTENTION THAT BECAUSE OF MATHEMATICAL INACCURACIES IN
THESE SYSTEMS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THEY BE REDEFINED
IN TERMS OF A NEW DATUM. MODERN SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY
PERMITS THE ADOPTION OF AN ACCURATE AND DEFINITIVE DATUM
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THAT IS GEOCENTRIC; THAT IS TO SAY, THE ORIGIN OF THE
GEODETIC CO-ORDINATES OF THE SYSTEMS IS THE CENTRE OF
THE EARTH AND NOT SOME ARBITRARY POINT ON THE EARTH'S
SURFACE.

"THE DEPARTMENT, THEREFORE, HAS THE HONOUR TO PROPOSE
THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA AGREE THAT THEIR GEODETIC REFERENCE SYSTEMS SHALL
BE REDEFINED IN TERMS OF A COMMON HORIZONTAL DATUM.

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PROPOSAL:

(1) THE REDEFINED DATUM, TO REPLACE THE PRESENT NORTH
AMERICAN DATUM, WOULD BE GEOCENTRIC.

(2) THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL ENDEAVOUR TO DEFINE FINAL
GEODETIC PARAMETERS FOR A NEW COMMON DATUM BY DECEMBER 31,
1979.

"THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION
THAT THE FOREGOING PROPOSAL FOR AN AGREEMENT THAT THE
1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM BE REDEFINED IN TERMS OF A NEW
COMMON HORIZONTAL DATUM IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED
STATES AUTHORITIES CONCERNED."

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.

2. PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY OF RESPONSE OF COGNIZANT U.S.
AGENCIES.

ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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